

Mansfield Board of Education Meeting
March 13, 2008
Minutes

Attendees: Mary Feathers, Chair, Shamim Patwa, Vice-Chair, Chris Kueffner, Secretary, Gary Bent, Mark LaPlaca, Min Lin, Katherine Paulhus, Superintendent
Gordon Schimmel, Board Clerk, Celeste Griffin

Absent: Dudley Hamlin, Martha Kelly

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m. by Ms Feathers, Chair.

II. Executive Session - **MOTION by Dr. Bent, seconded by Dr. Patwa to move into Executive Session with the administrators and counsel to discuss communications privileged by the attorney-client relationship at 6:38 p.m.: **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor. **MOTION** by Mr. LaPlaca, seconded by Dr. Bent to return to regular session at 7:37 p.m.: **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.**

III. Approval of Minutes - **MOTION by Dr BENT, seconded by Mrs. Paulhus to approve the minutes of the 2-7-08 meeting: **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.**

IV. Hearing for Visitors – Mr. Steve Tucker, Mr. Michael Romeo, Mrs. Lisa Drzewiecki, and Mr. John Vampatella, parents of 3rd grade students at Vinton School, asked the Board to consider adding a 3rd fourth grade classroom for the 08-09 school year. A number of other parents were in attendance to support the opinions expressed by the speakers who choose not to address the Board.

V. Communications – A letter from the Mansfield Instructional Assistants Chapter 1112 inviting the Board to attend the “Walk A Day in My Shoes” program at Mansfield Middle School. A letter from Susan G. Kaeser, Vinton parent, requesting a 3rd classroom for 08-09 fourth grade.

VI. Addition to Present Agenda – None

VII. Committee Reports – Ms Feathers reported that the Superintendent Search Personnel Committee has retained the services of Goens/Esparo, LLC to conduct the search. There will be a parent focus group with Dr. Goens on March 24th at 6:30 p.m. and a community focus group on March 27th at 7:00 p.m. Ms Feathers also reported that the School Building Committee has hired Newfield Construction Company as construction manager for the project. The final public workshop offered by Lawrence Associates will be in mid-May.

VII. Report of the Superintendent:

A. Town Planning Update – Mr. Greg Padick, Director of Planning, discussed zoning permits and potential building in Mansfield. Information with details of Mr. Padick's presentation may be found by contacting the Town of Mansfield, Office of Planning and Zoning.

B. Mobile Dentist - Mrs. Karen Molloy and Mrs. Carol Lavigne, Mansfield Middle and Goodwin School nurses reported on the Mobile Dentists/Smile Program an in-

school dental prevention program. **MOTION** by Mr. Kueffner, seconded by Dr. Patwa, to endorse a trial of the program pending clarification of liability issues. **VOTE:** Dr. Patwa, Mr. Kueffner, Ms Lin, Mrs. Paulhus, and Mr. LaPlaca in favor. Dr. Bent opposed.

C. Issues in Regional School Finance – Mr. Jeff Smith, Director of Finance, discussed the concept of common assessment for the sending towns to Region 19.

D. Financial Report 12-31-07 – MOTION by Mr. Kueffner, seconded by Ms Lin to accept the Financial Statements dated December 31, 2007. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

E. Personnel – MOTION by Mr. Kueffner, seconded by Dr. Bent to accept the retirement of Laura Toffenetti, Grade 8 Language Arts and Social Studies Teacher and resignation of Dana Gnesdilow, Grade 6 Science and Reading Teacher at Mansfield Middle School effective the end of the 2007-2008 school year. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

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VIII. Hearing for Visitors – Steven Tucker, a 7th grade student at Mansfield Middle School shared his concern about the condition of the classrooms during June and September when the weather is very warm.

IX. Suggestions for Future Agenda – Dr. Patwa requested a class size history report and to revisit the topic of redistricting.

X. Executive Session: **MOTION** by Mr. Kueffner, seconded by Dr. Patwa to move into Executive Session at 9:35 p.m. to discuss negotiations. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor. **MOTION** by Mr. Kueffner, seconded by Dr. Patwa to return to regular session at 10:00 p.m. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

XI. Adjournment - **MOTION** by Dr. Bent, seconded by Mr. Kueffner to adjourn at 10:00 p.m. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.